



DHS Today via E-Mail

April 30, 2004

AGENCY SELECTS NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND DYS DIRECTOR



The Department of Human Services has named Janie Huddleston DHS Deputy Director. Huddleston takes over the position vacated by Artee Williams in March. Williams left the department to head the Employment Security Division.

Huddleston has served as the department's Director of Child Care and Early Education since 1998. A long-standing advocate for educating Arkansas' children, Huddleston led the charge to place quality early education at the forefront in Arkansas. Last fall the Child Welfare League of America bestowed one of its highest honors on Huddleston, the National award for Child Advocacy. With a unique background in education, business, and management, Huddleston plans to meet the challenges of her new position with the same approach she has used in the fight for early education. "Throughout my career, improving the lives of children and families has always been my professional focus," said Huddleston. "Arkansas is working hard to build a reputation as a model for other states, and I look forward to being a part of that team." In Huddleston's new role, she will continue to oversee the implementation of early education programs but will also oversee other family related programs such as child welfare and juvenile services.

"Janie's role in early education demonstrates a commitment to lifelong learning," said Kurt Knickrehm, DHS Director.

Huddleston lives in Little Rock with her husband Rich and daughter Lauren.

DHS has also announced its selection of J. Kenneth Hales to head the Division of Youth Services. Hales has served as the Director for Michigan's Bureau of Juvenile Justice since 2002 and will take over the division from Doyle Herndon who plans to retire in May. Hales holds an undergraduate degree in sociology and a master's degree in

public administration. At his Michigan post, Hales targeted education and mental health treatment of juveniles. “This is a pivotal role for our state, said Kurt Knickrehm, DHS Director. “We have looked past providing adequate care and set our sights on being a national best practices model for other programs. Ken has demonstrated his ability and commitment to take Arkansas’ youth program forward.” A 30-year veteran of juvenile service, Hales relies heavily on community collaborations to build and maintain solid programs. “Juvenile services and community correction has experienced an incredible evolution over the last 20 years,” said Hales. “Strong partnerships with juvenile courts and providers have allowed us to provide better outcomes for children than we could have accomplished alone.” Over the last two years, the Department has accredited all six of the state’s regional juvenile programs and is serving approximately 9,000 children in at risk community programs.

DHS AROUND THE STATE

18th Annual Arkansas Women’s Conference



Just a reminder that it’s time to register for the **18th Annual Arkansas Women’s Conference** which will be held Thursday, May 27th at the beautiful C.A. Vines Arkansas 4H Center in Ferndale (just 8 miles off Chenal Parkway). The featured speaker for this year’s conference is Sarah Victory, nationally known motivational speaker who provides audiences with solid skills and inspiration to their own greatness. Her topic, **Life Victories: How to Get a Life Beyond Your Wildest Imagination in One Year or Less**, will show women how to find the magic in their lives and use it to create success. Ms. Victory will be speaking at the opening session and after lunch.

The conference is open to all women and is an excellent educational as well as motivational event. Work-related workshop sessions for which continuing professional education credits will be given include “Let’s Get Organized”, “Website No-No’s”, “Your Professional Image”, “Time Management Outside the Box”, “Mind Games: Making My Memory Work”, “Put Some Gratitude in Your Attitude”, “Power Point 101” and “Making Effective Presentations”. These and other workshops sessions will be conducted by noted professionals from the local community. For a complete list, check the website: www.arkwomensconf.homestead.com

Cost for the one-day conference is \$50.00, which includes continental breakfast, luncheon, silent auction and admission to all workshops and exhibits. Deadline for pre-registration is May 14. Register on-line at www.arkwomensconf.homestead.com or fax registration form to 501/682-8350. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Mueller at 501/987-7783.

8th Annual Open Horizons Conference

The Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center cordially invites all employees to attend the **8th annual Open Horizons Conference** on May 6th and 7th at the Lighthouse Ministry Conference Center in Warren, Arkansas. The theme for this year's conference is "Seamless Networking...Touching Lives". Six (6) Nursing Home Administrator CEUs have been approved by the Office of Long Term Care.

Subjects this year include "Ethical Decision Making", "Reaching My Own Greatness", "Homeland Security", "Caring for the Alzheimer's Caregiver", "Nurturing the Woman Within" and "Diverse Learners in 21st Century Schools". Various speakers, including featured speakers Sherry Anderson, Lavana Kindle & Jeff Keilson, Dr. Arthur Tucker, Carolyn Furr and Senator Gilbert Baker, will address, through a mixture of education and motivation, the many ways that agencies can touch the lives of others. Registration before April 28 is \$50.00; after that date, the cost is \$60.00. The cost includes snacks both days, a chance to win door prizes and great networking opportunities.

For more information, contact Jimmie Sue Wade, Debra Banks, Gwen Jones, Harriet Simkins or Superintendent Judy Adams at 870-226-6774 or visit the website at www.seahdc.homestead.com/openhorizons.html.



Hats Off to...Doris Edwards and Lech Matuszewski

Supervisor Doris A. Edwards (Security, NDPS) of Little Rock has been named the winner of the regional Supervisor Achievement Award for April due to her commitment to excellence, announced Greg L. Gile, Vice President, Guardsmark Central Region. Edwards became a member of the Guardsmark team in June of 2002. "Supervisor Edwards is the epitome of professionalism while performing her responsibilities at a high visibility complex", said Kenneth W. MacLeod, Manager in Charge, Little Rock. "She greets hundreds of visitors daily in a professional manner while being polite and personable to the visitor". "The client has expressed on numerous occasions how much she appreciates Supervisor Edward's work ethic, attitude, appearance and cooperation". Congratulations, Doris!

Lech Matuszewski, Administrative Law Judge in the DHS Office of Appeals & Hearing, will be attending the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Judge Matuszewski was awarded a tuition scholarship from The Bretzlaff Foundation Scholarship Fund and is enrolled in the Administrative Law: Fair Hearing course, May 17-27, 2004.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May - Foster Parent Month

May - Older Americans Month

May 6th & 7th - Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center 8th Annual Open Horizons Conference, Warren

May 27th - 18th Annual Arkansas Women's Conference, Arkansas 4-H Center, Ferndale

June 5th - Open 4D Jackpot Barrel Race, Saline County Fairgrounds, Benton - sponsored by the Arkadelphia Human Development Center Volunteer Council; for information call Shenna Shuler (870)246-8011

A Final Thought....

Many Members of the DHS family have relatives and friends serving in Iraq. Some have even paid the ultimate price. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you whose loved ones are stationed in the Middle East. To remind us of the incredible sacrifice our men and women are making and to give you a soldier's perspective on the experience in Iraq, please read the attached letter from a soldier written just last week to his father:

Hello again from Iraq,

As some of you already know we were attacked again. This time when I say we, I mean our company, our tight little network. We had no deaths, and we were lucky. The mortar that landed right next to me and my surrounding friends was a dud. Some people that were a couple rows down from us were not so lucky. Cpt. Felder, a good C.O. and a very good man, was killed. All the deaths came from hhc (hq for our battalion). I loaded the dead into body bags, and it is so strange to look at someone you know and like, then it's so depressing after you get through to wash the litters, of the blood left behind. After it

was all through I became angry, I wanted to be infantry and get justice. But that's something I may never get. The mortar shattered the pelvis of one, both femurs of another, and amputated knees and below of the last [soldier] that died right there. The other one dow (died of wounds)during his medivac to the cash. The flack vests and kevlar worked fine, no chest or head wounds, but it was the pelvis and below that killed them.

I think I'm telling you this now because I never want to tell it again. right now I'm in Baghdad on another mission. We have to relieve the medics here and we will be here for a week or more. It's not too bad, we have hammocks, and each other. I am getting closer to these in our squad guys more and more each day. It's like being married to 3 people. we have a really good squad leader, which I'm thankful for.

Thanks for your letters and emails, I don't need anything, but thanks for asking. I love you Grandma, Mom and Dad, Aaron, Tonya and family, and everyone else, there are too many names to list.

Dad, I like oh boy! oberto that brand. Any flavor.

James



Do you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter? Send e-mail to Julie.Munsell@mail.state.ar.us or Ingrid.Green@mail.state.ar.us. Send a fax to (501) 682-6836 or call (501) 682-8650.